

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 PM-03 L-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8878

INFO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, CM

SUBJECT: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AND PRISONERS OF CON-
SCIENCE

REF: LIBREVILLE 1350; YAOUNDE 627

1. AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL (AI) IS HIGHLY REPUTABLE WORLD-
WIDE ORGANIZATION FOUNDED TO WORK FOR THE RELEASE OF
THOSE DETAINED IN VIOLATION OF UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF
HUMAN RIGHTS AND WHO HAD NOT USED OR ADVOCATED VIOLENCE.
ORGANIZATION HAS MEMBERSHIP IN ALL AREAS OF THE WORLD,
INCLUDING AFRICA, ASIA, LATIN AMERICA, EASTERN EUROPE AND
US.

2. AI NORMALLY WORKS BY ASSIGNING INDIVIDUAL PRISONER
CASES TO LOCAL AI CHAPTERS. CHAPTERS THEN WRITE LETTERS,
SEND MONEY TO RELATIVES AND CONDUCT OTHER ACTIVITIES TO
HELP PRISONERS. SOMETIMES, HOWEVER, AI CONDUCTS MORE
GENERAL CAMPAIGNS AIMED AT PRESSURING GIVEN COUNTRIES ON
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OVERALL POLICY, AS WELL AS INDIVIDUAL CASES. GABON, I-

VORY COAST, BAMAKO, CHAD AND CAMEROON WERE BROUGHT TOGETHER UNDER ONE CAMPAIGN PURELY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE REASONS ACCORDING TO DEPUTY HEAD RESEARCH DEPARTMENT. IN CASE OF GABON, AI SENT A RESEARCH MISSION TO LIBREVILLE IN MAY, 1973, WHICH HAS BEEN PROVIDING INFORMATION ON NINE INVESTIGATION CASES TO ADOPTION GROUPS (WHO PAY FOR INFORMATION AND WHO CARRY OUT CAMPAIGN WITH GOVERNMENT CONCERNED). IN CAMEROON THERE ARE PRESENTLY SEVEN CASES UNDER INVESTIGATION AND TWO CASES WHICH HAVE BEEN ADOPTED. PRISONERS IN CAMEROON INCLUDE FORMER CABINET MINISTER AND ARE HELD AT PRISONS AND INTERNMENT CENTERS IN POLI AND MANTOUM. AI RESEARCH MISSION TO CAMEROON IN MAY AND JUNE OF 1973 ESTIMATED NUMBER OF POLITICAL PRISONERS DETAINED WAS CLOSE TO 5,000, MOSTLY FROM BASSA AND BAMILEKE TRIBES. THIS INFORMATION PASSED ON TO ADOPTING GROUPS IN AUGUST, 1973.

3. AI CAMPAIGNS ARE CARRIED OUT IN COUNTRIES WHERE ORGANIZATION BELIEVES THERE ARE ANY PRISONERS WHO DETAINED BECAUSE OF POLITICAL OR RELIGIOUS BELIEFS. SMALL NUMBER OF PRISONERS DOES NOT PRECLUDE ACTIVE CAMPAIGN. AI FOR INSTANCE LISTS TWO CASES IN US.

4. ANNUAL REPORT BEING POUCHED YAOUNDE AND LIBREVILLE. ADDITIONAL COPIES CAN BE OBTAINED DIRECTLY FROM AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, 53 THEOBALD'S ROAD, LONDON WC1X 8SP, ENGLAND.

RICHARDSON

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